

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 575, 578, 579, 581, 592, 593, 609, 631, 787, 788, 789, 792, and 793, without prejudice, please add new Claims 796-808, and please amend Claims 544, 546, 558, 564, 585, 598, 600, 601, 603, 615, 621, 630, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 655, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 663, 680, 681, 694, 705, 707, 709, 710, 712, 718, 729, 730, 754, 759, 761, 762, 776, 782, 783, 784, 790, and 795, as provided in the following Listing of Claims:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-543 (Canceled).

Claim 544. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving information regarding a selection of an employee benefit, wherein an employee or a benefit beneficiary is previously enrolled in the employee benefit or an employee or a benefit beneficiary is provided with the employee benefit without enrolling in the employee benefit;

processing the information regarding a selection of the employee benefit;

providing information or a link to information for making a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an employee benefit pursuant to or under the employee benefit;

receiving a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an employee benefit, wherein the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is made pursuant to or under the employee benefit;

processing the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit with a processing device using employee benefits information stored in a database or a memory device, wherein the employee benefits information comprises at least one of vacation time information, personal time information, and sick time information, and at least one of employee discount information, buying service information, tuition reimbursement information, educational assistance program information, in-house training information, child care program information, day care program information, and stock option information;

determining with the processing device whether the
employee benefit requested in the request for an employee
benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is to be provided;

generating a message in response to the request for an
employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit, wherein
the message contains information ~~regarding a providing of an
amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and
sick time,~~ indicating that at least one of a vacation time
benefit, a personal time benefit, a sick time benefit, an
employee discount benefit, a buying service benefit, a tuition
reimbursement benefit, an educational assistance program
benefit, an in-house training benefit, a child care program
benefit, a day care program benefit, and a stock option
benefit, is provided or will be provided in response to the
request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee
benefit; and

~~recording or storing information regarding the providing
of the amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time,
and sick time,~~

~~deducting the amount of at least one of vacation time,
personal time, and sick time, from an amount of at least one of~~

~~vacation time, personal time, and sick time, available before the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit was received; and~~

transmitting the message to a communication device associated with at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 545 (Canceled).

Claim 546. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

providing the employee benefit requested or claimed in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit if the message contains information indicating that the at least one of a vacation time benefit, a personal time benefit, a sick time benefit, an employee discount benefit, a buying service benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit, an educational assistance program benefit, an in-house training benefit, a child care program benefit, a day care program benefit, and a stock option benefit, will be provided.

Claim 547. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information regarding a registration for a second employee benefit or a subscription to a second employee benefit.

Claim 548. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing a request for a status of the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the request for a status of the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with the at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 549. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information regarding a purchase of an enhanced employee benefit or an upgraded employee benefit.

Claim 550. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information regarding a purchase of a second employee benefit or a purchase of at least one of a good, a product, and a service, pursuant to a second employee benefit.

Claim 551. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information regarding a change to the employee benefit or to a second employee benefit.

Claim 552 (Canceled).

Claim 553. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the communication device is at least one of a personal computer, a laptop computer, a personal digital assistant, a telephone, a handheld computer, and a personal communication device.

Claim 554. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the communication device is a television or an interactive television.

Claim 555. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the communication device is a wireless device.

Claim 556. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the communication device is a kiosk.

Claim 557. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein at least one of the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is transmitted on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web, and the message is transmitted to the communication device on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web.

Claim 558. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the computer-implemented method is performed or utilized on or over an intranet.

Claim 559. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the processing device is at least one of a central processing unit, a computer in a network, a server computer, and an Internet server computer.

Claim 560. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information is at least one of automatically updated and automatically updated in real-time.

Claim 561 (Canceled).

Claim 562. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information is associated with an independent contractor relationship.

Claim 563. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information regarding a purchase pursuant to an employee discount benefit or a buying service benefit.

Claim 564. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information regarding a registration for a class or a course ~~or processing information regarding a request for a tuition reimbursement.~~

Claim 565. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of a selection of a primary care provider, a request for a referral authorization for a specialist, a status of a healthcare insurance claim, a purchase of a healthcare insurance benefit, a change in a healthcare insurance coverage, a status of a disability insurance claim, a purchase of a disability insurance benefit, a change in a disability insurance coverage, a status of a life insurance claim, a purchase of a life insurance benefit, and a change in a life insurance coverage.

Claim 566. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of a placing of an order with a goods provider or a service provider, a registration with a goods provider or a service provider, a subscription to a goods provider or a service provider, and a status of a pending order.

Claim 567. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

providing information to the employer regarding a transaction between the employee or a second employee and at least one of a healthcare insurance benefit provider, a disability insurance benefit provider, and a life insurance benefit provider.

Claim 568. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the processing device is linked to at least one of an employer computer, a healthcare insurance provider computer, a disability insurance provider computer, a life insurance provider computer, a credit union or banking services provider computer, a pension benefit provider computer, a retirement benefit provider computer, and an employee discount provider computer.

Claim 569. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of accessing a credit union account balance or a bank account balance, authorizing or terminating a payroll deduction, ordering a check or checks, making a payment, stopping a payment, applying for a loan or a mortgage, purchasing a certificate of deposit or a bond, providing financial advice, providing information regarding a benefit offered by a credit union or a banking service provider, providing information regarding a special rate loan offered to an employee or employees, applying for a mortgage, purchasing at least one of a stock, a bond, and a mutual fund, providing a forecast for a savings account, providing information regarding a company stock purchase made through a company-sponsored plan, and providing information regarding a savings bond purchasing plan.

Claim 570. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

storing information regarding at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, provided by a benefit provider, and information regarding a requirement

for a benefit or a need for a benefit associated with the employer, a second employer, the employee or a second employee;

processing the information regarding the at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, with the information regarding a requirement for a benefit or a need for a benefit;

identifying a benefit provider for providing at least one of a benefit and benefit information for the requirement for a benefit or for the need for a benefit;

generating a second message containing information regarding the benefit provider, wherein the second message contains information regarding at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, provided by the benefit provider; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employer, a second employer, the employee, and a second employee.

Claim 571. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

receiving a request for employee benefit information;

processing the request for employee benefit information;

generating a second message in response to the request for employee benefit information; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, a benefit administrator, and a second employee.

Claim 572. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 571, wherein the second message contains a link or a hyperlink to a computer associated with the processing device or to a computer associated with a benefit provider.

Claims 573-581 (Canceled).

Claim 582. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 571, wherein the second message contains a link to a computer associated with at least one of a healthcare insurance benefit provider, a disability insurance benefit provider, a life insurance benefit provider, a pension benefit provider, a retirement benefit provider, an employee discount benefit provider, and a buying service benefit provider.

Claim 583. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises information regarding an employee benefit associated with the employee, wherein the employee benefit exists from a previous employment relationship with a previous employer and is maintained by the employee in a current employment relationship with the employer, wherein the employee benefit from the previous employment relationship is paid for or provided at least in part by the employer pursuant to the current employment relationship and is included in employee benefits provided to the employee by the employer.

Claim 584. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises information regarding an

individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account exists independently of an employment relationship with the employer.

Claim 585. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information for pooling employees from a plurality of employers to obtain an employee benefit or employee benefits for the employees of the plurality of employers.

Claim 586. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

providing information to the employer regarding a transaction between the employee and a benefit provider.

Claim 587. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information for allowing the employee or a second employee to utilize monies or credits provided by the

employer to obtain a second employee benefit from a benefit provider.

Claim 588. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information for utilizing an employer-provided at least one of a fund, money, and a credit, to create an individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account exists independently of an employment relationship with the employer.

Claim 589. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

transmitting information regarding at least one of a change to a benefit, a change to a benefit account, an activity regarding a benefit account, an offering of a benefit, a posting of an offer to sell a benefit, an advertisement for a benefit, a posting of benefit information, a payment to a deferred income savings account or a pension account, and a payment of a benefit claim, to the communication device or to a second communication device

associated with the at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 590. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

utilizing at least one of an intelligent agent, a software agent, and a mobile agent, at least one of to obtain information regarding at least one of a benefit, benefit information availability, a status of a benefit, a status of a benefit claim, and a benefit provider, to request a benefit or benefits information, to request a service, to purchase a good or a service, to perform an action for or on behalf of at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, a benefit administrator, and a benefit provider, to report a finding or an action taken, and to purchase a benefit.

Claim 591. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

transmitting at least one of a benefit request form, a benefit information request form, a claim submission form, and a claim status form, to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with the at least one of the

employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claims 592-593 (Canceled).

Claim 594. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the message is contained in or transmitted in at least one of an electronic mail transmission, an electronic transmission, a facsimile transmission, a telephone call, a telephone message, a voice message, a pager message, and a beeper message.

Claim 595. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

utilizing at least one of an electronic power of attorney form, an electronic authorization, an electronic signature, and a digital signature, to file at least one of a medical claim form, a dental claim form, a healthcare claim form, an insurance claim form, a financial transaction form, a financial claim form, a goods order form or a service order form, and a benefit request form.

Claim 596. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the message is transmitted to the communication device in real-time.

Claim 597. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

effectuating a payment pursuant to the employee benefit in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit or effectuating a payment pursuant to a second employee benefit in response to a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit.

Claim 598. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the computer-implemented method is performed or utilized on or over a cable television network.

Claim 599. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is transmitted from the communication device or from a second communication device associated with the at least one of the

employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 600. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the computer-implemented method is performed or utilized on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web.

Claim 601. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving information regarding a selection of an employee benefit, wherein an employee or a benefit beneficiary is previously enrolled in the employee benefit or an employee or a benefit beneficiary is provided with the employee benefit without enrolling in the employee benefit;

processing the information regarding a selection of the employee benefit;

providing information or a link to information for making a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an employee benefit pursuant to or under the employee benefit;

receiving a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an employee benefit, wherein the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is made pursuant to or under the employee benefit;

processing the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit with a processing device using employee benefits information stored in a database or a memory device, wherein the employee benefits information comprises at least one of pension benefit information, and retirement benefit information, healthcare insurance information, disability insurance information, life insurance information, and at least one of vacation time information, personal time information, and sick time information, credit union benefit information, employee stock ownership benefit information, and profit sharing benefit information, and at least one of employee discount information, buying service information, tuition reimbursement information, educational assistance program information, in-house training information, child care program information, day care program information, and stock option information;

determining with the processing device whether the employee benefit requested in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is to be provided;

generating a message in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit, wherein the message contains information ~~regarding a providing of an amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time,~~ indicating that at least one of a pension benefit, a retirement benefit, a health insurance benefit, a disability insurance benefit, a life insurance benefit, a vacation time benefit, a personal time benefit, a sick time benefit, a credit union benefit, an employee stock ownership benefit, a profit sharing benefit, an employee discount benefit, a buying service benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit, an educational assistance program benefit, an in-house training benefit, a child care program benefit, a day care program benefit, and a stock option benefit, is provided or will be provided in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit; and

~~recording or storing information regarding the providing of the amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time;~~

~~deducting the amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time, from an amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time, available before the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit was received; and~~

transmitting the message to a communication device associated with at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 602 (Canceled).

Claim 603. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

providing the employee benefit requested or claimed in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit if the message contains information indicating at least one of a pension benefit, a retirement benefit, a health insurance benefit, a disability insurance benefit, a life insurance benefit, a vacation time benefit, a personal time benefit, a sick time benefit, a credit union benefit, an employee stock ownership benefit, a profit sharing benefit, an

employee discount benefit, a buying service benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit, an educational assistance program benefit, an in-house training benefit, a child care program benefit, a day care program benefit, and a stock option benefit, is provided or will be provided.

Claim 604. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing information regarding a registration for a second employee benefit or a subscription to a second employee benefit.

Claim 605. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing a request for a status of the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the request for a status of the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with the at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 606. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing information regarding a purchase of an enhanced employee benefit or an upgraded employee benefit.

Claim 607. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing information regarding a purchase of a second employee benefit or a purchase of at least one of a good, a product, and a service, pursuant to a second employee benefit.

Claim 608. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing information regarding a change to the employee benefit or to a second employee benefit.

Claim 609 (Canceled).

Claim 610. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the communication device is at least one of a personal computer, a laptop computer, a personal digital assistant, a telephone, a handheld computer, and a personal communication device.

Claim 611. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the communication device is a television or an interactive television.

Claim 612. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the communication device is a wireless device.

Claim 613. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the communication device is a kiosk.

Claim 614. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein at least one of the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is transmitted on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web, and the message is transmitted to the

communication device on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web.

Claim 615. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the computer-implemented method is performed or utilized on or over an intranet.

Claim 616. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the processing device is at least one of a central processing unit, a computer in a network, a server computer, and an Internet server computer.

Claim 617. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the employee benefits information is at least one of automatically updated and automatically updated in real-time.

Claim 618 (Canceled).

Claim 619. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the employee benefits information is associated with an independent contractor relationship.

Claim 620. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing information regarding a purchase pursuant to an employee discount benefit or a buying service benefit.

Claim 621. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing information regarding a registration for a class or a course ~~or processing information regarding a request for a tuition reimbursement.~~

Claim 622. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of a selection of a primary care provider, a request for a referral authorization for a specialist, a status of a healthcare insurance claim, a purchase of a healthcare insurance benefit, a change in a healthcare insurance coverage, a status of a disability insurance claim, a purchase of a disability insurance benefit, a change in a disability insurance coverage,

a status of a life insurance claim, a purchase of a life insurance benefit, and a change in a life insurance coverage.

Claim 623. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of a placing of an order with a goods provider or a service provider, a registration with a goods provider or a service provider, a subscription to a goods provider or a service provider, and a status of a pending order.

Claim 624. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

providing information to the employer regarding a transaction between the employee or a second employee and at least one of a healthcare insurance benefit provider, a disability insurance benefit provider, and a life insurance benefit provider.

Claim 625. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the processing device is linked to at least one of an employer computer, a healthcare insurance

provider computer, a disability insurance provider computer, a life insurance provider computer, a credit union or banking services provider computer, a pension benefit provider computer, a retirement benefit provider computer, and an employee discount provider computer.

Claim 626. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of accessing a credit union account balance or a bank account balance, authorizing or terminating a payroll deduction, ordering a check or checks, making a payment, stopping a payment, applying for a loan or a mortgage, purchasing a certificate of deposit or a bond, providing financial advice, providing information regarding a benefit offered by a credit union or a banking service provider, providing information regarding a special rate loan offered to an employee or employees, applying for a mortgage, purchasing at least one of a stock, a bond, and a mutual fund, providing a forecast for a savings account, providing information regarding a company stock purchase made through a company-sponsored plan, and providing information regarding a savings bond purchasing plan.

Claim 627. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

storing information regarding at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, provided by a benefit provider, and information regarding a requirement for a benefit or a need for a benefit associated with the employer, a second employer, the employee or a second employee;

processing the information regarding the at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, with the information regarding a requirement for a benefit or a need for a benefit;

identifying a benefit provider for providing at least one of a benefit and benefit information for the requirement for a benefit or for the need for a benefit;

generating a second message containing information regarding the benefit provider, wherein the second message contains information regarding at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, provided by the benefit provider; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employer, a second employer, the employee, and a second employee.

Claim 628. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

receiving a request for employee benefit information;

processing the request for employee benefit information;

generating a second message in response to the request for employee benefit information; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, a benefit administrator, and a second employee.

Claim 629. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 628, wherein the second message contains a link or a

hyperlink to a computer associated with the processing device or to a benefit provider computer.

Claim 630. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the message contains information indicating that at least one of a pension benefit and a retirement benefit is provided or will be provided ~~employee benefits information further comprises healthcare insurance information, and further wherein the computer implemented method further comprises:~~

~~receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;~~

~~processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;~~

~~generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee~~

~~benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is a health insurance benefit; and~~

~~transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.~~

Claim 631 (Canceled).

Claim 632. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 628 601, wherein the message contains information indicating that at least one of a health insurance benefit, a disability insurance benefit, and a life insurance benefit, is provided or will be provided ~~employee benefits information or the second message contains information regarding at least one of an educational assistance benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit, a credit union~~

~~benefit, an employee discount program benefit, a buying service benefit, and a stock option benefit .~~

Claim 633. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the message contains information indicating that at least one of a vacation time benefit, a personal time benefit, and a sick time benefit, is provided or will be provided ~~employee benefits information further comprises disability insurance information, and further wherein the computer implemented method further comprises:~~

~~receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit,~~

~~processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit,~~

~~generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee~~

~~benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is a disability insurance benefit; and~~

~~transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.~~

Claim 634. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the message contains information indicating that at least one of a credit union benefit, an employee stock ownership benefit, and a profit sharing benefit, is provided or will be provided ~~employee benefits information further comprises life insurance information, and further wherein the computer implemented method further comprises:~~

~~receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;~~

~~processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;~~

~~generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is a life insurance benefit; and~~

~~transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at~~

~~least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.~~

Claim 635. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the message contains information indicating that at least one of an employee discount benefit, a buying service benefit, a child care program benefit, a day care program benefit, and a stock option benefit, is provided or will be provided ~~message contains information regarding a providing of an amount of vacation time.~~

Claim 636 (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the message contains information indicating that at least one of a tuition reimbursement benefit, an educational assistance program benefit, and an in-house training benefit, is provided or will be provided ~~regarding a providing of an amount of personal time or an amount of sick time.~~

Claim 637. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

providing a pension benefit or a retirement benefit or providing a payment pursuant to a pension benefit or a retirement benefit.

Claim 638. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 628, wherein the employee benefit information or the second message contains information regarding at least one of an employee discount, a buying service, and a buying service which participates in an employee benefit program.

Claim 639. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 628, wherein the second message contains a link to a computer associated with at least one of a healthcare insurance benefit provider, a disability insurance benefit provider, a life insurance benefit provider, a pension benefit provider, a retirement benefit provider, an employee discount benefit provider, and a buying service benefit provider.

Claim 640. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises information regarding an employee benefit associated with an employee, wherein the employee benefit exists from a previous employment relationship and is maintained by the employee in a current employment relationship with the

employer, wherein the employee benefit from the previous employment relationship with a previous employer is paid for or provided at least in part by the employer pursuant to the current employment relationship and is included in employee benefits provided to the employee by the employer.

Claim 641. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises information regarding an individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account exists independently of an employment relationship with the employer.

Claim 642. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing information for allowing the employee or a second employee to utilize monies or credits provided by the employer to obtain a second employee benefit from a benefit provider.

Claim 643. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

providing information to a benefit provider regarding any employee who has upgraded a benefit or utilized at least one of a benefit offer, an employee discount benefit, and a buying service benefit.

Claim 644 (Canceled).

Claim 645. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing information for utilizing an employer-provided at least one of a fund, money, and a credit, to create an individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account exists independently of an employment relationship with the employer.

Claim 646. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

transmitting information regarding at least one of a change to a benefit, a change to a benefit account, an activity regarding a benefit account, an offering of a benefit, a posting of an offer to sell a benefit, an advertisement for a benefit, a posting of benefit information,

a payment to a deferred income savings account or a pension account, and a payment of a benefit claim, to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with the at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 647. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

utilizing at least one of an intelligent agent, a software agent, and a mobile agent, at least one of to obtain information regarding at least one of a benefit, benefit information availability, a status of a benefit, a status of a benefit claim, and a benefit provider, to request benefit information, to request a service, to purchase a good or a service, to perform an action for or on behalf of at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, a benefit administrator, and a benefit provider, to report a finding or an action taken, and to purchase a benefit.

Claim 648. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

transmitting at least one of a benefit request form, a benefit information request form, a claim submission form, and a claim status form, to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with the at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claims 649-650 (Canceled).

Claim 651. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the message is contained or transmitted in at least one of an electronic mail transmission, an electronic transmission, a facsimile transmission, a telephone call, a telephone message, a voice message, a pager message, and a beeper message.

Claim 652. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

utilizing at least one of an electronic power of attorney form, an electronic authorization, an electronic signature, and a digital signature, to file at least one of a medical claim form, a dental claim form, a healthcare claim form, an insurance claim form, a financial transaction form, a

financial claim form, a goods order form or a service order form, and a benefit request form.

Claim 653. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the message is transmitted to the communication device in real-time.

Claim 654. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

effectuating a payment pursuant to the employee benefit in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit or effectuating a payment pursuant to a second employee benefit in response to a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit.

Claim 655. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the computer-implemented method is performed or utilized on or over a cable television network.

Claim 656. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is transmitted from the

communication device or from a second communication device associated with the at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 657. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the computer-implemented method is performed or utilized on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web.

Claim 658. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving information regarding a selection of an employee benefit, wherein an employee or a benefit beneficiary is previously enrolled in the employee benefit or an employee or a benefit beneficiary is provided with the employee benefit without enrolling in the employee benefit;

processing the information regarding a selection of the employee benefit;

providing information or a link to information for making a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an employee benefit pursuant to or under the employee benefit;

receiving a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an employee benefit, wherein the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is made pursuant to or under the employee benefit;

processing the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit with a processing device using employee benefits information stored in a database or a memory device, wherein the employee benefits information comprises at least one of healthcare insurance information, disability insurance information, ~~and~~ life insurance information, credit union benefit information, employee stock ownership benefit information, and profit sharing benefit information, at least one of pension benefit information and retirement benefit information, and at least one of vacation time information, personal time information, and sick time information, and at least one of employee discount information, buying service information, tuition reimbursement information, educational assistance program information, in-house training information, child care program information, day care program information, and stock option information;

determining with the processing device whether the employee benefit requested in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is to be provided;

generating a message in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit, wherein the message contains information ~~regarding a providing of an amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time,~~ indicating that at least one of a healthcare insurance benefit, a disability insurance benefit, a life insurance benefit, a credit union benefit, an employee stock ownership benefit, a profit sharing benefit, a vacation time benefit, a personal time benefit, a sick time benefit, an employee discount benefit, a buying service benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit, an educational assistance program benefit, an in-house training benefit, a child care program benefit, a day care program benefit, and a stock option benefit, is provided or will be provided in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit; and

~~recording or storing information regarding the providing of the amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time,~~

~~deducting the amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time, from an amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time, available before the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit was received; and~~

transmitting the message to a communication device associated with at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 659. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving information regarding a selection of an employee benefit, wherein an employee or a benefit beneficiary is previously enrolled in the employee benefit or an employee or a benefit beneficiary is provided with the employee benefit without enrolling in the employee benefit;

processing the information regarding a selection of the employee benefit;

providing information or a link to information for making a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an employee benefit pursuant to or under the employee benefit;

receiving a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an employee benefit, wherein the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is made pursuant to or under the employee benefit;

processing the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit with a processing device using employee benefits information stored in a database or a memory device, wherein the employee benefits information comprises at least one of pension benefit information, retirement benefit information, credit union benefit information, employee stock ownership benefit information, and profit sharing benefit information, ~~healthcare insurance information, disability insurance information, and life insurance information,~~ and at least one of vacation time information, personal time information, and sick time information, ~~educational assistance benefit information, tuition reimbursement benefit information, credit union benefit information, employee discount program benefit information, buying service benefit information, and stock option benefit information~~ and at least one of employee

discount information, buying service information, tuition reimbursement information, educational assistance program information, in-house training information, child care program information, day care program information, and stock option information;

determining with the processing device whether the employee benefit requested in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is to be provided;

generating a message in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit, wherein the message contains information ~~regarding a providing of an amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time~~ indicating that at least one of a pension benefit, a retirement benefit, a credit union benefit, an employee stock ownership benefit,, a profit sharing benefit, a vacation time benefit, a personal time benefit, a sick time benefit, an employee discount benefit, a buying service benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit, an educational assistance program benefit, an in-house training benefit, a child care program benefit, a day care program benefit, and a stock option benefit, is provided or will be provided in response to the

request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit; and

~~recording or storing information regarding the providing of the amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time;~~

~~deducting the amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time, from an amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time, available before the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit was received; and~~

transmitting the message to a communication device associated with at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 660. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving information regarding a selection of an employee benefit, wherein an employee or a benefit beneficiary is previously enrolled in the employee benefit or an employee

or a benefit beneficiary is provided with the employee benefit without enrolling in the employee benefit;

processing the information regarding a selection of the employee benefit;

providing information or a link to information for making a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an employee benefit pursuant to or under the employee benefit;

receiving a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an employee benefit, wherein the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is made pursuant to or under the employee benefit;

processing the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit with a processing device using employee benefits information stored in a database or a memory device, wherein the employee benefits information comprises at least one of ~~pension benefit information and retirement benefit information, and at least one of~~ vacation time information, personal time information, sick time information, ~~educational assistance benefit information, tuition reimbursement benefit information,~~ credit union benefit information, employee stock

ownership benefit information, and profit sharing benefit information, ~~employee discount program benefit information, buying service benefit information, and stock option benefit information~~ and at least one of employee discount information, buying service information, tuition reimbursement information, educational assistance program information, in-house training information, child care program information, day care program information, and stock option information;

determining with the processing device whether the employee benefit requested in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is to be provided;

generating a message in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit, wherein the message contains information ~~regarding a providing of an amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time,~~ indicating that at least one of a vacation time benefit, a personal time benefit, a sick time benefit, a credit union benefit, an employee stock ownership benefit, a profit sharing benefit information, an employee discount benefit, a buying service benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit, an educational assistance program benefit, an in-house training benefit, a child care program benefit, a day care program

benefit, and a stock option benefit, is provided or will be
provided in response to the request for an employee benefit or
the claim for an employee benefit; and

~~recording or storing information regarding the providing~~
~~of the amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time,~~
~~and sick time;~~

~~deducting the amount of at least one of vacation time,~~
~~personal time, and sick time, from an amount of at least one of~~
~~vacation time, personal time, and sick time, available before~~
~~the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an~~
~~employee benefit was received; and~~

transmitting the message to a communication device
associated with at least one of the employee, the benefit
beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 661. (Currently Amended) A computer-
implemented method, comprising:

storing or processing information regarding a benefit
provided to an employee pursuant to an employee benefit
relationship between the employee and a benefit provider,

wherein the employee benefit relationship is established pursuant to or during a first employment relationship between the employee and a first employer;

storing or processing information for providing or maintaining the benefit provided to the employee pursuant to the employee benefit relationship pursuant to or during a second employment relationship between the employee and a second employer, wherein the second employment relationship is a current employment relationship, wherein the benefit provided pursuant to the employee benefit relationship is paid for or provided at least in part by the second employer in or pursuant to the second employment relationship and is included in employee benefits provided to the employee by the second employer;

receiving a request for information regarding an employee benefit in an employee benefits account, wherein the employee benefits account includes the benefit or information regarding the benefit, and further wherein the benefit is at least one of healthcare insurance, disability insurance, and life insurance, and at least one of a retirement benefit, account and a pension benefit account;

processing the request for information regarding an employee benefit with a processing device using employee benefits information stored in a database or a memory device, wherein the employee benefits information comprises information regarding the benefit ~~an employee benefit associated with an employee, wherein the employee benefit exists from a previous employment relationship with a first employer and is maintained by the employee in a current employment relationship with a second employer, wherein the employee benefit from the previous employment relationship with the first employer is paid for or provided at least in part by the second employer in or pursuant to the current employment relationship with the second employer and is included in employee benefits provided to the employee by the second employer;~~

generating a message in response to the processing of the request for information regarding an employee benefit, wherein the message contains a response to the request for information regarding an employee benefit; and

transmitting the message to a communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a benefit beneficiary, the second employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 662. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

receiving a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an employee benefit;

processing the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit;
and

transmitting the second message to the communication device.

Claim 663. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 662, wherein the second message contains information indicating that the employee benefit requested in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is provided or will be provided ~~regarding a providing of an employee benefit requested or claimed in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit.~~

Claim 664. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 662, further comprising:

providing the employee benefit requested or claimed in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit or providing a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit.

Claim 665. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

processing information regarding a registration for the employee benefit or a second employee benefit or processing information regarding a subscription to ~~an~~ the employee benefit or a second employee benefit.

Claim 666. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 662, further comprising:

processing a request for a status of the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit;

generating a third message in response to the request for a status of the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit; and

transmitting the third message to the communication device.

Claim 667. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

processing information regarding a purchase of an enhanced employee benefit or an upgraded employee benefit.

Claim 668. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

processing information regarding a purchase of an employee benefit or a purchase of at least one of a good, a product, and a service, pursuant to an employee benefit.

Claim 669. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

processing information regarding a change to the employee benefit or a change to a second employee benefit.

Claim 670. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the employee benefit associated with an employee is a healthcare insurance benefit.

Claim 671. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the employee benefit associated with an employee is a disability insurance benefit.

Claim 672. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the employee benefit associated with an employee is a life insurance benefit.

Claim 673. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the employee benefit associated with an employee is a pension benefit or a retirement benefit.

Claim 674. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the message contains information regarding at least one of a healthcare insurance

benefit, a disability insurance benefit, a life insurance benefit, a pension benefit, and a retirement benefit.

Claim 675. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises at least one of educational assistance benefit information, tuition reimbursement benefit information, credit union benefit information, employee discount program benefit information, buying service benefit information, and stock option benefit information, and further wherein the message contains information regarding at least one of an educational assistance benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit, a credit union benefit, an employee discount program benefit, a buying service benefit, and a stock option benefit.

Claim 676. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the communication device is at least one of a personal computer, a laptop computer, a personal digital assistant, a telephone, a handheld computer, and a personal communication device.

Claim 677. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the communication device is a television or an interactive television.

Claim 678. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the communication device is a wireless device.

Claim 679. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the communication device is a kiosk.

Claim 680. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein at least one of the computer-implemented method is performed or utilized on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web, the request for information regarding an employee benefit is transmitted on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web, and the message is transmitted to the communication device on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web.

Claim 681. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the computer-

implemented method is performed or utilized on or over an intranet.

Claim 682. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the processing device is at least one of a central processing unit, a computer in a network, a server computer, and an Internet server computer.

Claim 683. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the employee benefits information is at least one of automatically updated and updated in real-time.

Claim 684. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the employee is an independent contractor.

Claim 685. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

processing information regarding a purchase pursuant to an employee discount benefit or a buying service benefit.

Claim 686. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

processing information regarding a registration for a class or a course or processing information regarding a request for a tuition reimbursement.

Claim 687. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of a selection of a primary care provider, a request for a referral authorization for a specialist, a status of a healthcare insurance claim, a purchase of a healthcare insurance benefit, a change in a healthcare insurance coverage, a status of a disability insurance claim, a purchase of a disability insurance benefit, a change in a disability insurance coverage, a status of a life insurance claim, a purchase of a life insurance benefit, and a change in a life insurance coverage.

Claim 688. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of a placing of an order with a goods provider or a service provider, a registration with a goods provider or a service provider, a subscription to a goods provider or a service provider, and a status of a pending order.

Claim 689. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

providing information to the second employer regarding a transaction between the employee and at least one of a healthcare insurance benefit provider, a disability insurance benefit provider, and a life insurance benefit provider.

Claim 690. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the processing device is linked to at least one of an employer computer, a healthcare insurance provider computer, a disability insurance provider computer, a life insurance provider computer, a credit union or banking services provider computer, a pension benefit provider computer, a retirement benefit provider computer, and an employee discount provider computer.

Claim 691. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

storing information regarding at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, provided by a benefit provider, and information regarding a requirement for a benefit or a need for a benefit associated with the employer or the employee or a second employee;

processing the information regarding the at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, with the information regarding a requirement for a benefit or a need for a benefit;

identifying a benefit provider for providing at least one of a benefit and benefit information for the requirement for a benefit or for the need for a benefit;

generating a second message containing information regarding the benefit provider, wherein the second message contains information regarding at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, provided by the benefit provider; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employer, the employee, and the second employee.

Claim 692. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the message contains a link or a hyperlink to a computer associated with the processing device or to a benefit provider computer.

Claim 693. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises information regarding an individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account exists independently of the previous employment relationship or the current employment relationship.

Claim 694. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

processing information for pooling employees from a plurality of employers to obtain an employee benefit for the employees of the the plurality of employers.

Claim 695. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

providing information to a benefit provider regarding the employee or a second employee who has upgraded a benefit or utilized at least one of a benefit offer, an employee discount benefit, and a buying service benefit.

Claim 696. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

processing information for allowing the employee or a second employee to utilize monies or credits provided by the second employer to obtain an employee benefit from a benefit provider, or processing information for allowing the employee or a second employee to utilize funds provided by the second employer to make a payment to a benefit provider.

Claim 697. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

processing information for allowing the employee to create an individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account exists independently of the previous

employment relationship and the current employment relationship, and further wherein the employee pays for or purchases a benefit in whole or in part with at least one of funds, monies, and credits, provided by the first employer or the second employer.

Claim 698. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

utilizing at least one of an intelligent agent, a software agent, and a mobile agent, at least one of to obtain information regarding at least one of a benefit, benefit information availability, a status of a benefit, a status of a benefit claim, and a benefit provider, to request benefit information, to request a service, to purchase a good or a service, to perform an action for or on behalf of at least one of the employee, a benefit beneficiary, the first employer or the second employer, a benefit administrator, and a benefit provider, to report a finding or an action taken, and to purchase a benefit.

Claim 699. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

transmitting at least one of a benefit request form, a benefit information request form, a claim submission form, and a claim status form, to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with the at least one of the employee, a benefit beneficiary, the second employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 700. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

transmitting information regarding at least one of a change to a benefit, a change to a benefit account, an activity regarding a benefit account, an offering of a benefit, a posting of an offer to sell a benefit, an advertisement for a benefit, a posting of benefit information, a payment to a deferred income savings account or a pension account, and a payment of a benefit claim.

Claim 701. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the message is contained or transmitted in at least one of an electronic mail transmission, an electronic transmission, a facsimile transmission, a telephone call, a telephone message, a voice message, a pager message, and a beeper message.

Claim 702. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

utilizing at least one of an electronic power of attorney form, an electronic authorization, an electronic signature, and a digital signature, to file at least one of a medical claim form, a dental claim form, a healthcare claim form, an insurance claim form, a financial transaction form, a financial claim form, a goods order form or a service order form, and a benefit request form.

Claim 703. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the message is transmitted to the communication device in real-time.

Claim 704. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

effectuating a payment pursuant to an employee benefit in response to a request for an employee benefit or a claim for the employee benefit or a second employee benefit.

Claim 705. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the computer-

implemented method is performed or utilized on or over a cable television network.

Claim 706. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the request for information regarding an employee benefit is transmitted from the communication device.

Claim 707. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the employee benefits information comprises information regarding an individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account is utilized by the employee to retain a benefit with a benefit provider independently of ~~the~~ a previous employment relationship or the current employment relationship.

Claim 708. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 707, wherein the individual benefits account includes at least one of a healthcare insurance benefit, a disability insurance benefit, a life insurance benefit, a pension benefit, and a retirement benefit.

Claim 709. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

storing or processing information regarding a benefit provided to an employee pursuant to an employee benefit relationship between the employee and a benefit provider, wherein the employee benefit relationship is established pursuant to or during a first employment relationship between the employee and a first employer;

storing or processing information for providing or maintaining the benefit provided to the employee pursuant to the employee benefit relationship pursuant to or during a second employment relationship between the employee and a second employer, wherein the second employment relationship is a current employment relationship, wherein the benefit provided pursuant to the employee benefit relationship is paid for or provided at least in part by the second employer in or pursuant to the second employment relationship and is included in employee benefits provided to the employee by the second employer;

receiving a request for information regarding an employee benefit in an employee benefits account, wherein the employee benefits account includes the benefit or information regarding the benefit, and further wherein the benefit is at least one of healthcare insurance, disability insurance, and

life insurance, and ~~at least one of~~ a retirement benefit,
account and a pension benefit account;

processing the request for information regarding an
employee benefit with a processing device using employee
benefits account information stored in a database or a memory
device, wherein the employee benefits account information
comprises information regarding the benefit ~~an employee benefit~~
~~associated with an employee, wherein the employee benefit~~
~~exists from a previous employment relationship with a first~~
~~employer and is maintained by the employee in a current~~
~~employment relationship with a second employer, wherein the~~
~~employee benefit from the previous employment relationship is~~
~~paid for or provided at least in part by the second employer~~
~~pursuant to an the current employment relationship and is~~
~~included in employee benefits provided to the employee by the~~
~~second employer;~~

generating a message in response to the processing of
the request for information regarding an employee benefit,
wherein the message contains a response to the request for
information regarding an employee benefit; and

transmitting the message to a communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a benefit beneficiary, the second employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 710. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

storing or processing information regarding a benefit provided to an employee pursuant to an employee benefit relationship between the employee and a benefit provider, wherein the employee benefit relationship is established pursuant to or during a first employment relationship between the employee and a first employer;

storing or processing information for providing or maintaining the benefit provided to the employee pursuant to the employee benefit relationship pursuant to or during a second employment relationship between the employee and a second employer, wherein the second employment relationship is a current employment relationship, wherein the benefit provided pursuant to the employee benefit relationship is paid for or provided at least in part by the second employer in or pursuant to the second employment relationship and is included in

employee benefits provided to the employee by the second employer;

receiving a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an employee benefit in an employee benefits account, wherein the employee benefits account includes the benefit or information regarding the benefit, and further wherein the benefit is at least one of healthcare insurance, disability insurance, and life insurance, ~~and at least one of a retirement benefit, account and a pension benefit account;~~

processing the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit with a processing device using employee benefits information stored in a database or a memory device, wherein the employee benefits information comprises information regarding the benefit ~~an employee benefit associated with an employee, wherein the employee benefit exists from a previous employment relationship with a first employer and is maintained by the employee in a current employment relationship with a second employer, wherein the employee benefit from the previous employment relationship is paid for or provided at least in part by the second employer pursuant to the current employment relationship and is included~~

~~in employee benefits provided to the employee by the second employer;~~

generating a message in response to the processing of
the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an
employee benefit, wherein the message contains a response to
the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an
employee benefit; and

transmitting the message to a communication device
associated with at least one of the employee, a benefit
beneficiary, the second employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 711. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method
of Claim 710, further comprising:

receiving a request for employee benefit information;

processing the request for employee benefit
information;

generating a second message in response to the request
for employee benefit information; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device.

Claim 712. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the message contains information indicating that the employee benefit requested in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is provided or will be provided ~~regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit.~~

Claim 713. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

providing the employee benefit requested or claimed in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit.

Claim 714. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

processing information regarding a registration for the employee benefit or a second employee benefit or processing

information regarding a subscription to the employee benefit or to a second employee benefit.

Claim 715. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

processing a request for a status of the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the request for a status of the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device.

Claim 716. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of a healthcare insurance benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to a healthcare insurance benefit.

Claim 717. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the message contains information

regarding a providing of a disability insurance benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to a disability insurance benefit.

Claim 718. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

processing information regarding a purchase of a second employee benefit or a change to the employee benefit or to a second employee benefit.

Claim 719. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the employee benefit associated with an employee is a healthcare insurance benefit.

Claim 720. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the employee benefit associated with an employee is a disability insurance benefit.

Claim 721. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the employee benefit associated with an employee is a life insurance benefit.

Claim 722. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the employee benefit associated with an employee is a pension benefit or a retirement benefit.

Claim 723. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the message contains information regarding at least one of a healthcare insurance benefit, a disability insurance benefit, a life insurance benefit, a pension benefit, a retirement benefit, an educational assistance benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit, a credit union benefit, an employee discount program benefit, a buying service benefit, and a stock option benefit.

Claim 724. (Canceled)

Claim 725. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the communication device is at least one of a personal computer, a laptop computer, a personal digital assistant, a telephone, a handheld computer, and a personal communication device.

Claim 726. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the communication device is a television or an interactive television.

Claim 727. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the communication device is a wireless device.

Claim 728. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the communication device is a kiosk.

Claim 729. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein at least one of the computer-implemented method is performed or utilized on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web, the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is transmitted on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web, and the message is transmitted to the communication device on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web.

Claim 730. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the computer-implemented method is performed or utilized on or over an intranet.

Claim 731. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the processing device is at least one of a central processing unit, a computer in a network, a server computer, and an Internet server computer.

Claim 732. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the employee benefits information is at least one of automatically updated and updated in real-time.

Claim 733. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the employee is an independent contractor.

Claim 734. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

processing information regarding a purchase pursuant to an employee discount benefit or a buying service benefit.

Claim 735. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

processing information regarding a registration for a class or a course or processing information regarding a request for a tuition reimbursement.

Claim 736. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of a selection of a primary care provider, a request for a referral authorization for a specialist, a status of a healthcare insurance claim, a purchase of a healthcare insurance benefit, a change in a healthcare insurance coverage, a status of a disability insurance claim, a purchase of a disability insurance benefit, a change in a disability insurance coverage, a status of a life insurance claim, a purchase of a life insurance benefit, and a change in a life insurance coverage.

Claim 737. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of a placing of an order with a goods provider or a service provider, a registration with a goods provider or a service

provider, a subscription to a goods provider or a service provider, and a status of a pending order.

Claim 738. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

providing information to the second employer regarding a transaction between the employee or a second employee and at least one of a healthcare insurance benefit provider, a disability insurance benefit provider, and a life insurance benefit provider.

Claim 739. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the processing device is linked to at least one of an employer computer, a healthcare insurance provider computer, a disability insurance provider computer, a life insurance provider computer, a credit union or banking services provider computer, a pension benefit provider computer, a retirement benefit provider computer, and an employee discount provider computer.

Claim 740. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

storing information regarding at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, provided by a benefit provider, and information regarding a requirement for a benefit or a need for a benefit associated with at least one of the second employer, the employee, and a second employee;

processing the information regarding the at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, with the information regarding a requirement for a benefit or a need for a benefit;

identifying a benefit provider for providing at least one of a benefit and benefit information for the requirement for a benefit or for the need for a benefit;

generating a second message containing information regarding the benefit provider, wherein the second message contains information regarding at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, provided by the benefit provider; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at

least one of the second employer, the employee, and the second employee.

Claim 741. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the message contains a link or a hyperlink to a computer associated with the processing device or to a benefit provider computer.

Claim 742. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises information regarding an individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account exists independently of the previous employment relationship and the current employment relationship.

Claim 743. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

processing information for pooling employees from a plurality of employers to obtain employee benefits for the employees of the plurality of different employers.

Claim 744. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

providing information to a benefit provider regarding the employee or a second employee who has upgraded a benefit or utilized at least one of a benefit offer, an employee discount benefit, and a buying service benefit.

Claim 745. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

processing information for allowing the employee or a second employee to utilize monies or credits provided by the second employer to obtain an employee benefit from a benefit provider, or processing information for allowing the employee or a second employee to utilize funds provided by the second employer to make a payment to a benefit provider.

Claim 746. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

processing information for allowing the employee to create an individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account exists independently of the previous employment relationship and the current employment relationship, and further wherein the employee pays for or

purchases a benefit in whole or in part with at least one of funds, monies, and credits, provided by the second employer.

Claim 747. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of a life insurance benefit or providing a payment pursuant to a life insurance benefit.

Claim 748. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

transmitting at least one of a benefit request form, a benefit information request form, a claim submission form, and a claim status form, to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with the at least one of the employee, a benefit beneficiary, the second employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 749. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of a pension benefit or a retirement benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to a pension benefit or a retirement benefit.

Claim 750. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the message is contained in at least one of an electronic mail transmission, an electronic transmission, a facsimile transmission, a telephone call, a telephone message, a voice message, a pager message, and a beeper message.

Claim 751. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

utilizing at least one of an electronic power of attorney form, an electronic authorization, an electronic signature, and a digital signature, to file at least one of a medical claim form, a dental claim form, a healthcare claim form, an insurance claim form, a financial transaction form, a financial claim form, a goods order form or a service order form, and a benefit request form.

Claim 752. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the message is transmitted to the communication device in real-time.

Claim 753. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

effectuating a payment pursuant to an employee benefit in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit.

Claim 754. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the computer-implemented method is performed or utilized on or over a cable television network.

Claim 755. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is transmitted from the communication device.

Claim 756. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the employee benefits information comprises information regarding an individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account is utilized by the employee to retain a benefit with a benefit provider independently of the previous employment relationship and the current employment relationship.

Claim 757. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the employee benefits information further

comprises at least one of vacation time benefit information, personal time benefit information, sick time benefit information, credit union benefit information, educational assistance benefit information, tuition reimbursement benefit information, employee discount benefit information, and buying service benefit information, wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of at least one of a vacation time benefit, a personal time benefit, a sick time benefit, a credit union benefit, an educational assistance benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit, an employee discount benefit, and a buying service benefit.

Claim 758. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

transmitting information regarding at least one of a change to a benefit, a change to a benefit account, an activity regarding a benefit account, an offering of a benefit, a posting of an offer to sell a benefit, an advertisement for a benefit, a posting of benefit information, a payment to a deferred income savings account or a pension account, and a payment of a benefit claim.

Claim 759. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A
computer-implemented method, comprising:

storing or processing information regarding a benefit
provided to an employee pursuant to an employee benefit
relationship between the employee and a benefit provider,
wherein the employee benefit relationship is established
pursuant to or during a first employment relationship between
the employee and a first employer;

storing or processing information for providing or
maintaining the benefit provided to the employee pursuant to
the employee benefit relationship pursuant to or during a
second employment relationship between the employee and a
second employer, wherein the second employment relationship is
a current employment relationship, wherein the benefit provided
pursuant to the employee benefit relationship is paid for or
provided at least in part by the second employer in or pursuant
to the second employment relationship and is included in
employee benefits provided to the employee by the second
employer;

receiving a request for an employee benefit or a claim
for an employee benefit in an employee benefits account,

wherein the employee benefits account includes the benefit or information regarding the benefit, and further wherein the benefit is at least one of healthcare insurance, disability insurance, and life insurance, ~~and at least one of a retirement benefit, account and a pension benefit account;~~

processing the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit with a processing device using employee benefits account information stored in a database or a memory device, wherein the employee benefits account information comprises information regarding the benefit an ~~employee benefit associated with an employee, wherein the employee benefit exists from a previous employment relationship with a first employer and is maintained by the employee in a current employment relationship with a second employer, wherein the employee benefit from the previous employment relationship is paid for or provided at least in part by the second employer pursuant to the current employment relationship and is included in employee benefits provided to the employee by the second employer;~~

generating a message in response to the processing of the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit, wherein the message contains a response to

the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit; and

transmitting the message to a communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a benefit beneficiary, the second employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 760. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 759, wherein the employee benefits account information comprises information regarding an individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account is utilized by the employee to retain a benefit with a benefit provider independently of the previous employment relationship and the current employment relationship.

Claim 761. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 759, wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of at least one of a healthcare insurance benefit, a disability insurance benefit, a life insurance benefit, a pension benefit, a retirement benefit, a vacation time benefit, a personal time benefit, ~~and~~ a sick time benefit, an educational assistance benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit, a credit union benefit, an employee discount program benefit, and a buying

service benefit, or a providing of a payment pursuant to at least one of a healthcare insurance benefit, a disability insurance benefit, a life insurance benefit, a pension benefit, a retirement benefit, an educational assistance benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit, and a credit union benefit.

Claim 762. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

~~storing employee benefits information in a database or a memory device;~~

storing information regarding a request by an employee or a benefit beneficiary to be notified regarding at least one of a posting of an offering of a benefit and a posting of an offer to sell a benefit or a benefit package, wherein the benefit or the benefit package is not available to the employee or the benefit beneficiary in or pursuant to an employment relationship prior to the at least one of a posting of an offering of a benefit and a posting of an offer to sell a benefit or a benefit package;

detecting the at least one of a posting of an offering of a benefit and a posting of an offer to sell a benefit or a benefit package, ~~wherein the benefit or the benefit package is not available to an employee or a benefit beneficiary in or pursuant to an employment relationship prior to the at least one of an offering of a benefit and a posting of an offer to sell a benefit or a benefit package,~~ wherein the at least one of ~~an~~ a posting of the offering of a benefit and a posting of an offer to sell a benefit or a benefit package is automatically detected by a processing device in response to ~~the at least one of an offering of a benefit and a posting of an offer to sell a benefit or a benefit package~~ request by an employee or a benefit beneficiary to be notified regarding the at least one of a posting of an offering of a benefit and a posting of an offer to sell a benefit or a benefit package;

generating a message containing information regarding the at least one of a posting of an offering of a benefit and a posting of an offer to sell a benefit or a benefit package, wherein the message is automatically generated by the processing device upon the automatic detection of the at least one of a posting of an offering of a benefit and a posting of an offer to sell a benefit or a benefit package; and

transmitting the message to a communication device associated with ~~an~~ the employee or a the benefit beneficiary.

Claim 763. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, wherein the message is transmitted to the communication device in real-time.

Claim 764. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, wherein the communication device is at least one of a personal computer, a laptop computer, a personal digital assistant, a telephone, a handheld computer, and a personal communication device.

Claim 765. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, wherein the communication device is a television or an interactive television.

Claim 766. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, wherein the communication device is a wireless communication device.

Claim 767. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, wherein the message is

transmitted to the communication device on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web.

Claim 768. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, wherein the message is transmitted to the communication device on or over an intranet.

Claim 769. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, wherein the employee benefits information is at least one of automatically updated and updated in real-time.

Claim 770. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of a purchase of a healthcare insurance benefit, a change in a healthcare insurance coverage, a purchase of a disability insurance benefit, a change in a disability insurance coverage, a purchase of a life insurance benefit, and a change in a life insurance coverage.

Claim 771. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of an allocation of pension funds among investment vehicles or options, a changing of an employee pension plan contribution, a filing of a pension benefit claim, a determination of a status of a pending pension benefit claim, an allocation of retirement funds among investment vehicles or options, and a changing of a contribution to a retirement account.

Claim 772. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, wherein the message is contained or transmitted in at least one of an electronic mail transmission, an electronic transmission, a facsimile transmission, a telephone call, a telephone message, a voice message, a pager message, and a beeper message.

Claim 773. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, wherein the message contains a link or a hyperlink to a computer associated with the processing device or to a benefit provider computer.

Claim 774. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, further comprising:

processing employee benefit information, wherein the employee benefit information comprises information regarding an employee benefit associated with an employee, wherein the employee benefit exists from a previous employment relationship with a first employer and is maintained by the employee in a current employment relationship with a second employer, wherein the employee benefit from the previous employment relationship is paid for or provided at least in part by the second employer pursuant to the current employment relationship with the second employer and is included in employee benefits provided to the employee by the second employer, and further wherein the employee benefit information comprises information regarding an individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account is utilized by the individual to retain a benefit with a benefit provider independently of an employment relationship.

Claim 775. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, further comprising:

storing information regarding at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, provided by

the benefit provider, and information regarding a requirement for a benefit or a need for a benefit associated with the employer or the employee;

processing the information regarding the at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, with the information regarding a requirement for a benefit or a need for a benefit;

identifying a benefit provider for providing at least one of a benefit and benefit information for the requirement for a benefit or for the need for a benefit;

generating a second message containing information regarding the benefit provider, wherein the second message contains information regarding at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, provided by the benefit provider; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device.

Claim 776. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

~~storing employee benefit information in a database or a
memory device;~~

storing information regarding a request by a benefit
provider to be notified regarding a posting by an employee or a
benefit beneficiary of at least one of a need, a request, and
a requirement, to buy or to obtain a benefit or a benefit
package, wherein the benefit or the benefit package is not
available to the employee or the benefit beneficiary in or
pursuant to an employment relationship at the time of the
posting of the at least one of a need, a request, and a
requirement, to buy or to obtain a benefit or a benefit
package;

detecting a the posting by an employee or a benefit
beneficiary of at least one of a need, a request, and a
requirement, to buy or to obtain a benefit or a benefit
package, wherein the benefit or the benefit package is not
available to an employee or a benefit beneficiary in or
pursuant to an employment relationship at the time of the
posting of the at least one of a need, a request, and a
requirement, to buy or to obtain a benefit or a benefit
package, wherein the posting of at least one of a need, a

request, and a requirement, to buy or to obtain a benefit or a benefit package is automatically detected by a processing device in response to the request by a benefit provider to be notified regarding a posting by an employee or a benefit beneficiary of at least one of a need, a request, and a requirement, to buy or to obtain a benefit or a benefit package;

generating a message containing information regarding the posting of at least one of a need, a request, and a requirement, to buy or to obtain a benefit or a benefit package, wherein the message is automatically generated by the processing device upon the automatic detection of the posting of at least one of a need, a request, and a requirement, to buy or to obtain a benefit or a benefit package; and

transmitting the message to a communication device associated with a the benefit provider.

Claim 777. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 776, wherein the message is transmitted to the communication device in real-time.

Claim 778. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 776, wherein the message is transmitted to the communication device on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web.

Claim 779. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 776, wherein the message is transmitted to the communication device on or over an intranet.

Claim 780. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 776, wherein the employee benefit information is at least one of automatically updated and updated in real-time.

Claim 781. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 776, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of a purchase of a healthcare insurance benefit, a change in a healthcare insurance coverage, a purchase of a disability insurance benefit, a change in a disability insurance coverage, a purchase of a life insurance benefit, and a change in a life insurance coverage.

Claim 782. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises healthcare insurance ~~benefit~~ information, and further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein

the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is a healthcare insurance benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 783. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises disability insurance ~~benefit~~ information, and further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is a disability insurance benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 784. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises life insurance ~~benefit~~ information, and further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is a life insurance benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at

least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 785. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises pension benefit information, and further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or

a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is a pension benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 786. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises employee stock ownership benefit information, and further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is an employee stock ownership benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claims 787-789 (Canceled).

Claim 790. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises credit union benefit information, and further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein

the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is a credit union benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 791. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises profit sharing benefit information, and further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is a profit sharing benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claims 792-793 (Canceled).

Claim 794. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises retirement benefit information,

and further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is a retirement benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 795. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the employee benefits account further includes at least one of ~~an educational assistance benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit,~~ a credit union benefit, ~~an employee discount program benefit, a buying service benefit, a stock option benefit,~~ a profit sharing benefit, and an employee stock ownership benefit.

Claim 796. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the message contains information indicating that a vacation time benefit or an amount of vacation time is provided or will be provided.

Claim 797. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the message contains information indicating that a personal time benefit or an amount of personal time is provided or will be provided.

Claim 798. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the message contains information indicating that a sick time benefit or an amount of sick time is provided or will be provided.

Claim 799. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the message contains information indicating that an employee discount benefit is provided or will be provided.

Claim 800. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the message contains information indicating that a buying service benefit is provided or will be provided.

Claim 801. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the message contains information indicating that a tuition reimbursement benefit is provided or will be provided.

Claim 802. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the message contains information indicating that an educational assistance program benefit is provided or will be provided.

Claim 803. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the message contains information indicating that an in-house training benefit is provided or will be provided.

Claim 804. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the message contains information indicating that a profit sharing benefit is provided or will be provided.

Claim 805. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the message contains information indicating that a child care program benefit is provided or will be provided.

Claim 806. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the message contains information indicating that a day care program benefit is provided or will be provided.

Claim 807. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the message contains information indicating that a stock option benefit is provided or will be provided.

Claim 808. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the message contains information indicating that a credit union benefit or an employee stock ownership benefit is provided or will be provided.